

# National Anti-Slavery Standard.

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National Anti-Slavery Standard.

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THE VIRGINIA WASHINGTON COLLEGE

AND REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1868.

The newspaper states that a mass-meeting was

held at the Cooper Institute, New York, on the even-

ing of the 5th of March, for the purpose of rais-

ing a fund for Washington College, Vir-

ginia, of which the ex-Confederate Gen. Lee is

President. The papers also state that Rev. Henry

Ward Beecher has recently given one thousand dol-

lars to that institution. Mr. Beecher is also re-

ported to have stated at the meeting at Cooper In-

stitution that "if he had been born and bred in the

South he might have done as Gen. Lee did at the

breaking out of the war."

A very high authority in masters of Christian

conduct declares all things lawless not always ex-

cepted. It may be perfectly lawful for a Christian

minister to give all the money he can to aid in

the support of schools to educate the youth of our

land in the theology of Tom Paine and Voltaire;

but whether such conduct would be becoming a

man professing to be acting under a commission

from the Most High God, making it his duty to be

constant, in season and out of season, in instructing

the people everywhere to be holy and pure, and

avoid the very appearance of evil, is a question

of another and very different character. It is unquestionably legal for a very popular clergyman of a

large city congregation of loyal and true men, to

give one thousand dollars to an institution of learn-

ing under control of a traitor leader of a rebellious

army, to teach the youth of the South to believe

the National government an oppressor, to be de-

stroyed the first favorable opportunity; but the

propriety of such a course, in a Christian minister

professing to believe the rebellion unnecessary and

unjust, is a matter about which loyal men will have

and express an opinion of their own. It may be no

violation of law for a clergyman of one of the loyal

States and cities of the North, whose son was a gal-

lant soldier in the Union army during the recent

bloody contest with rebellion, to beg money to aid

in teaching the rising generation in ten States in

the Union to believe that son of his was, during all

that time, engaged in a brilliant career of robbery

and arson; but how can we, in the South, look at son

of a soldier in the Union army, who has been

in such an act, in quite another question. It may not

be in violation of any statute law for a minister to

violate the command of His master under whose com-

mission he claims to act, to go into all the world and

teach the gospel of Liberty to all men, to lend

the eloquence of his tongue in aid of institutions

of learning that instruct their pupils to believe

the colored race only a higher order of the brute crea-

ture, and Christian ministers who have preached a

gospel of deliverance to bondmen, as infidels de-

serving eternal damnation; but the propriety of

such a course, when squared by the right rules of

Christian conduct, is a matter about which even the

world's people will have their opinion.

Being one of those world's people who have

waited the opportunity of Rev. Mr. Beecher to the

opinions many entertain of his conduct in the

matter mentioned. Most of the world's people

think Mr. Beecher has not obeyed the Christian

injunction of "avoiding the very appearance of

evil," and for some cause or other, in giving

money to uphold a college presided over by a man

unquestionably guilty of the highest and most in-

famous crime known to the law, he has been guilty

of conduct highly censurable in a Christian

minister. They cannot see how it is a minis-

ter of a gospel of holiness and purity in conduct,

can consistently ask a religious, loyal, sensible

people to aid in keeping up institutions of learning

under the control of men known to be guilty of

crimes punishable with death. They are just ill-

informed enough to assert that his conduct in do-

ing violence to his college, is just as improper

and inconsistent with his character as a true

Christian and minister, as would have been the act

of shooting his son to schools taught by known

thieves and libertines, to be trained up in habits

of honesty and purity of character. They say, and

say just too, that treason is legally as infamous as

that act, the enthralling intelligent and leading

traitor with the education of youth, just as dan-

gerous to the future peace and purity of the

world as would be the enthralling of that work to

thieves and libertines. They say that men who

were to be trusted the law of the land are to be

entrusted with the greatest interests of education,

and under charge of such persons, instead of

being worthy of the patronage and confidence of

Christian ministers, ought to be disengaged and

denounced by them. Ministers, above all

other men, should be careful of lending themselves

to the work of enthralling the education of the

young generation to criminal and diabolical

hands.

Now, I assert that no loyal man, who up-

held, from principle, the National government, and

who understands the true state of affairs at Wash-

ington College, in Virginia, can consistently give

one dollar to aid in its maintenance and support;

and no Christian minister, who honestly believed

in the sinfulness of slavery, can consistently with

his Christian profession, lend himself to the work

of procuring subscriptions for such a project.

No minister would for one moment pretend it is con-

tinued, individually, to be magnanimous, and to

concede—since it has actually come to last—that,

possibly, the matter was better deferred, owing to

the fact (though questioned by some), that the na-

tion had not seemed entirely ready for such pro-

ceeding until now, the President, having, in the

opinion of many, violated no legal enactment.

Consequently, the chances might have been those of

failure in case impeachment had been fairly started.

But to see, this view of the subject does not

help the master much in one sense, and that the

highest—but nobody pretends that, as a nation,

our standard of right is wrong

as it is.

Well, we have come to it at last—this Impeach-

ment business. Strange—and yet not strange—but

it does not always happen that the country, finally

comes to a standstill over a question of this kind.

It is the true theory and practical eloquence

of the Anti-Slavery Standard, that

the people of the North, and the people of the

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